

Message Text

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 82 TODEP 27 ZFF LONDON & WELLINGTON ONLY

FOLLOWING TEL SENT SECSTATE FROM MEXICO 26 FEBRUARY REPEATED

QTE C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 1679

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OCON, XM, MX

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY LATIN REACTION TO THE CONFERENCE OF
TLATELOLCO.

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS ALL ARA POSTS.

ARA FOR KUBISCH.

TREASURY FOR HENNESSY

1. IT IS NO EXAGGERATION TO REPORT THAT THE LATIN REACTION TO
THE CONFERENCE OF TLATELOLCO HAS BEEN ONE OF PLEASURE AND
MEASURED OPTIMISM AT THE SUCCESS OF THE FIRST DIALOGUE BETWEEN
SECRETARY KISSINGER AND HIS LATIN COUNTERPARTS. FROM THEIR
POINT OF VIEW THE SUBSTANTIVE SESSION PRODUCED A REAL DIALOGUE
RELATIVELY, IF NOT ENTIRELY, FREE OF FORMALISM AND ONE IN WHICH
THERE SEEMED TO BE A CONSIDERABLE MEASURE OF COMMUNICATION.

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THEY UNIVERSALLY LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUATION OF THE DIALOGUE

IN ATLANTA AND TO FURTHER PROGRESS ON PRACTICAL ISSUES.

2. AS ONE FOREIGN MINISTER PUT IT, REACTIONS CAN BE DIVIDED INTO TWO GROUPS: A MAJORITY WHO WERE QUITE PLEASED AND A MINORITY LIKE PERU, WHO FELT THAT WHATEVER THE PARTICULAR DISAGREEMENTS WITH THE FORM AND CONTENT OF THE DECLARATION, SOMETHING IMPORTANT HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED.

3. OUR INITIAL EMPHASIS ON "COMMUNITY" AWOKE CONCERNS, MOST ABLY STATED BY GUYANAN FOREIGN MINISTER RAMPHAL, THAT THIS EMPHASIS MIGHT MASK AN EFFORT, PERHAPS EVEN UNINTENDED, TO REASSERT US PRIMACY, A CONCERN THAT REFLECTS THE AMBIVALENCE WITH WHICH THE FACT OF US POWER IN THE REGION IS VIEWED. OPINION AMONG DELEGATES SEEMED TO BE DIVIDED AMONG THOSE WHO FELT THAT IF A LATIN AMERICAN HAD FIRST PROPOSED THE WORD "COMMUNITY" THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO DIFFICULTY AND THOSE, LIKE ARGENTINA, WHO SAID THEY WOULD HAVE HAD TROUBLE IN ANY EVENT.

4. SEVERAL DELEGATES EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO AVOID AT ATLANTA REPETITION OF THE LENGTHY HASSLE OVER A FINAL CONFERENCE DOCUMENT, PERHAPS BY CONFINING IT TO A BRIEF COMMUNIQUE WHICH WOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO REDO THE DECLARATION OF TLATELOLCO BUT SIMPLY SET FORTH ANY NEW UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED. AS ONE DELEGATE PUT IT WHILE MEXICO NEEDED A BIG DECLARATION FOR POLITICAL REASONS, THE U.S. DOES NOT HAVE A CRYING NEED FOR AN ELABORATE COMMUNIQUE. WHILE THE SENSE OF THE CONFERENCE WAS THAT THE TLATELOLCO AGENDA SHOULD AGAIN FORM THE BASIS OF THE ATLANTA MEETING, DELEGATES EXPRESSED TO US IN PRIVATE THE HOPE THAT WE COULD WORK OUT THROUGH PRIOR CONSULTATION A METHOD OF CONCENTRATING ON A FEW ITEMS OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE.

5. THE MEXICANS ARE VERY PLEASED THAT THEY GOT THEIR DOCUMENT AND THAT THE DIALOGUE PROSPERED, EVEN THOUGH THEY RECOGNIZED PRIVATELY THAT THEIR HANDLING OF THE CONFERENCE HAS CREATED SOME RESENTMENTS, WHICH WE SHALL SURELY HEAR ABOUT AFTER THE FOREIGN MINISTERS HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR CAPITALS. (RABASA HAS ALREADY TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT HE IS CONFIDENTIAL

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DISAPPOINTED AT RATHER CARPING ATTITUDE OF PRESS IN OTHER L.A. CAPITALS WHICH HE ASCRIBES IN PART TO JEALOUSIES AND RESENTMENTS AROUSED AT MEETING.)

6. FOR THE FUTURE, WE RECEIVED TWO INTERESTING SUGGESTIONS. WITH RESPECT TO THE UPCOMING MARCH 6 OAS SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON THE RIO TREATY, AMBASSADOR DE LA COLINA OF MEXICO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE US POSITION ON THE RIO TREATY WAS MORE

FORTHCOMING THAN PEOPLE HAD BEEN WILLING TO GIVE US CREDIT FOR BUT ADDED THAT THE KEY ISSUE IN HIS JUDGMENT LAY ON THE VOTING PROCEDURES FOR REMOVING OR LIFTING SANCTIONS. HE SAID THAT IT WAS A MANIFEST ANOMALY TO PERMIT ONE THIRD OF THE MEMBERS TO BLOCK THE LIFTING OF SANCTIONS UNDER THE RIO TREATY WHEN TO IMPOSE THEM REQUIRED A TWO THIRDS MAJORITY. WHILE THE MEXICAN POSITION WAS THAT SANCTIONS SHOULD CEASE TO BE IN EFFECT AS SOON AS THEY NO LONGER HAD A TWO THIRDS MAJORITY, HE FORESAW THE POSSIBILITY OF A COMPROMISE USING ELEMENTS OF WHAT ECUADOR HAD PROPOSED (I.E. THAT SANCTIONS COULD BE LIFTED OR RELAXED BY MAJORITY VOTE) AND COSTA RICAN FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO'S SUGGESTION THAT SANCTIONS SHOULD CEASE TO BE MANDATORY (AND BECOME RECOMMENDATORY) WHEN THEY CEASE TO HAVE TWO THIRDS SUPPORT.

7. IN RESPONSE TO OUR REMARKS THAT THE US COULD NOT GO ALONG WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC SECURITY INTO A PEACE-KEEPING MECHANISM LIKE THE RIO TREATY, DE LA COLINA TOLD US (AS HE HAD AT LIMA) THAT MEXICO ALSO HAD RESERVATIONS IN THIS REGARD AND SUGGESTED THAT WE WOULD HAVE NO REAL PROBLEM IN THIS RESPECT. HE HAD BEEN TALKING TO THE PERUVIANS, THE FOREMOST ADVOCATES OF PUTTING COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC SECURITY INTO THE RIO TREATY AND THOUGHT THEY WERE READY TO CEDE ON THIS ISSUE IN THE RIO TREATY CONTEXT. BOTH HE AND ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR QUIJANO FELT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT ON A PROTOCOL OF AMENDMENT TO THE RIO TREATY DURING THE NEXT SESSION OF THE OAS SPECIAL COMMITTEE. IF SO, THIS COULD BE PRESENTED TO THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS A SIGN OF TANGIBLE ACCOMPLISHMENT IN THE EFFORT TO REFORM THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM.

8. SO FAR AS THE ATLANTA MEETING WAS CONCERNED, ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR QUIJANO RAISED A SUGGESTION IN WHICH HE
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ASKED SPECIFICALLY THAT WE REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR ITS CONSIDERATION. HE NOTED THAT THE SECRETARY HAD PROMISED TO SEND MESSRS. MALMGREN AND EBERLE TO LATIN AMERICA FOR CONSULTATION ON TRADE ISSUES. IF THESE VISITS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED PRIOR TO THE APRIL 17 MEETING, THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING COULD THEN PERHAPS EXPLICITLY IDENTIFY SPECIFIC AREAS OF COMMON INTEREST OR ISSUES FOR CONSULTATION AND COME TO AN AGREEMENT TO SET UP THEREAFTER A SPECIAL WORKING GROUP FOR CONSULTATION IN GENEVA AMONG HEMISPHERE COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE US, TO CONTINUE COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION ON OUR POSITIONS. IF ALL THIS WE
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